

Board of Education Minutes
January 20, 2021
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM meeting platform meeting ID 838 9096 5753. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. St. Germain, Mrs. Reyes, and Mr. Cillino. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to move Facilities and Finance to Number 4.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

4. Facilities and Finance – a. December 2020 Financial Statements – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the December 2020 Financial Statements. Mr. Karpinski said questions were asked and answered during the committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Potemri had comment on a software program for facilities and had further comment.

b. Proposed 2021-2022 Education Budget – Mr. Nero said Mrs. Martin will send it to the Board on Friday. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mrs. Martin had comment.

5. Old Business – a. Strategic Plan – Mrs. Wagner said the plan needs to be approved. Questions were asked and answered. Nothing has changed. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the Board of Education’s Strategic Plan. Board members had comment. Mrs. St. Germain had comment on the item in question. There was further comment. The motion passed unanimously.

b. School Re-Opening Plan – Mr. Nero said the administrators met and worked on a full re-open plan. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner said she has been in contact with Mr. Mansfield and they are continuing to look at the numbers. Mrs. St. Germain said the first date is February 22nd. She said in an effort to make parents comfortable, they can opt to stay in the hybrid and she elaborated. She had further comment. She explained the schedule in her building. She explained the students that coming in on Wednesday are doing well. Mrs. Reyes said March 29th would be the date they go all-in; whatever choice is made at that date would be their choice for the rest of the year. Questions were asked and answered regarding the students that come in on Wednesday. Questions were asked about bussing that were answered. It was noted that busses would not be at full capacity and classrooms won’t be at full capacity. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Questions were asked about the students on Wednesday and also hybrid numbers. Mrs. St. Germain answered those questions. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Cillino said are going to be looking at something similar to the middle/high school level and he

explained. He explained what the teachers do on Wednesdays. He said they are looking at this and looking at their Wednesday model. Mr. Karpinski asked for the numbers of teachers and students in on Wednesday. Mr. Nero reiterated February 22nd; they will begin a four-day week. The plan is on March 29th to bring them in five days a week. He said looking at the science and data. Mrs. Wagner had comment on data on the state web site. She said Mr. Mansfield said it is community spread; we are in a safe environment in our schools. Mrs. Costa said she appreciates working toward a five day in March. Her teachers and paras work with students on Wednesdays. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously that on February 22nd, they move to a four-day week with Wednesday as discussed with March 29th as beginning a five-day week.

6. New Business – a. Winter Sports – Mr. Nero said they met last Friday. He attends the superintendents’ meetings and he elaborated. He met with Mrs. Turner, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mrs. Reyes. Mrs. Turner gave some background information. She gave a timeline. She spoke of high-risk and moderate risk sports. She elaborated. She said they can only have boys’ and girls’ basketball. Competitive sports will start February 12th and she explained. Mrs. Turner explained the daily routine the athletes must follow. She had further comment and said they are adhering to all the rules. She relayed what she tells the athletes. Questions were asked about fans at the games and the answer was no. Mrs. Turner explained only 50 people are allowed in the gym and she explained the numbers between the teams and others needed for the game. She said the quarter times will be shortened but with more quarters. Mrs. St. Germain explained the cameras and how they work. Further questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner had further comment. Mrs. Wagner thanked Mrs. Turner for her hard work.

b. 2021-2022 School Calendar – There was discussion on the calendars. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted five in favor and one against calendar version 1. Mr. Mendolia voted against the motion.

7. Student Success – None.

8. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation is having a virtual trivia contest and he explained.

9. Policy Votes – a. Policy and Regulation 3281.2 – School Fund-Raisers-Online Fundraising Campaigns – Crowdfunding – Mrs. Wagner said these policies were discussed at length during our workshop. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy and regulation 3281.2.

b. Policy 4113.6 – Remote Work/Telecommuting Policy/Telework – Revisions were discussed. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy 4113.6. Mr. Nero said he and Mrs. Reyes are meeting with the attorney tomorrow on the Title IX policy as requested and he elaborated.

10. Public Comment – None.

Mrs. Wagner explained everyone would have to drop off the webinar so they could go into Executive Session. She estimated it would be 20 minutes in length.

11. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education